

October 29, 1951

Memo from: EL

Subject: Nicola Abramtchik

I spent a couple of hours today with Mr. Abramtchik. The essence of what he told me I put into a cablegram for our Munich office.

The propaganda against SOHR and the American Committee conducted by the Ukrainians here has had a deep effect on the American members of the White Russian Rada. Abramtchik therefore found a more hostile attitude toward working with us than he expected, although he still hopes to bring opinion around to his own view. There is a fear that in agreeing to work with Russians, on any terms, the White Russians will open themselves to the charge of having "betrayed" the cause of national independence.

Evidently Ukrainians have approached White Russians, holding out the possibility of strong support from "more intelligent" Americans, the kind who have not fallen for Russian imperialist blandishments. Those Americans, their story runs, will form a "Committee for Liberation of the Non-Russian Peoples," including not only the Soviet minorities but the Poles, Czechs and others. The only American name he remembered in this connection is O'Connor (I'm not sure of spelling) — the fellow who made a speech in Philadelphia along these lines.

The American section of the White Russian Rada has designated a special commission to study the whole problem raised by SOHR. The commission is to report to a meeting fixed for November 10th.

Incidentally, the separatists have been much heartened by the Sat. Eve. Post article, by a British military man, Fuller, in last week's issue. Is there something we could do to offset the separatist propaganda in that article? Why in hell an American paper should take its line from the British is beyond me.

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